THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Government is aware of reports in the media about certain health problems in the two villages of Jharjani and Tamloa in the vicinity of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS).

(b) Department of Atomic Energy and expert teams of Medical Officers deputed by Rajasthan Government have independently looked into the details.

(c) The radioactivity releases into the environment through the air and water routes from RAPS have been very low and well below the limits stipulated by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. These limits are in line with the recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). An Environmental Survey Laboratory (ESL) has been operating at RAPS for the past nineteen years. Radiation surveys and collection and analysis of samples of water, soil, food, air and various other products have been systematically carried out in the area around RAPS to assure environmental safety. The Health problems reported in some villages around RAPS have not been evident in the plant workers at RAPS or their families living in the adjacent township. Surveys conducted by expert teams of Medical Officers deputed by Rajasthan Government have indicated that the health deficiencies observed were not attributable to rediation induced diseases. Thus scientific evidence indicates that there is no link between operation of I RAPS and reported health effects in some villages.

Use of Ajino Moto

1177. SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of HELATH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the food flavour 'Ajino Moto' is widely used in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Ajino Moto causes brain damage and has been banned in many countries ; and

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for imposing a ban on its use in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) Use of Mono Sodium Glutamate (commonly known as Ajino Moto) is permitted as a flavouring agent in an item of food provided the total glutamate content of the ready-to-serve food does not exceed 1%. It is not permitted to be added to any food for use by the infant below 12 months.

(b) The Joint Expert Committee on Food Addictives (JECFA) an expert body constituted by FAO/WHO, has opined that use of this chemical at the level necessary to achieve the desired technological effect and from their acceptable background in food do not represent a hazard to health.

(c) In view of (a) & (b) above, no such ban is contemplated under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Anti AIDS compound by Glaxo

1178. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Glaxo Laboratories have developed an anti-AIDS compound ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) M/s. Glaxo Laboratory has not applied to the Government for registration or clinical trial of any anti-AIDS compound.

(b) Does not arise.

Siddha system of Medicine

1179. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Siddha System of medicine is in a bad shape due to lack of adequate research and Governmental patronage; and

(b) if so, what steps the Central Council of Research in Siddha and Ayurveda propose to take to place the Siddha System of medcine on a sound footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA : (a) and (b) No Sir. however a great deal still remains to be done.

Black fever

1180. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: